(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rescheduling the timing of Tapaswini Express

1796. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rescheduling the timing of Tapaswini Express and Nizamuddin (Hirakund) Express, there was Rail Roko Andolan in Western Part of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There was "Rail Roko Andolan" for cancellation of extension of Hirakund Express to Bhubaneswar. However, there was no "Rail Roko Andolan" against the rescheduling the timings of Tapaswini Express.

(b) On 28.1.2000, the followers of Sanskrit Samaj obstructed train No. 8407 Up (Nizamuddin Express) at Sambalpur Road railway station. On the same day, followers of Kaushal Bhumi Mukti Sangathan obstructed the said train at Sambalpur railway station. They also launched a "Rail Roko" between Hirakund and Godbhaga railway stations on 7.2.2000.

Decrease in Transportation by Railways

1797. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transportation of coal, cement, steel and iron ore by the Railway has decreased over the last two years;

(b) if so, the main reasons for it; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to negotiate with these sectors to retain and increase the transportation of the above sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Figures of loading of coal cement, steel and iron ore for the period April-January of the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:—